(d) Disinvestment of Government shareholding in NTPC Limited (5%) and SJVN Limited (10%) and Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (5%) through Public Offering in domestic market, is under implementation. These Public Offerings are likely to be completed by 31st March 2010.

Exempting customs duty on ship-breaking

2046. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the request of the State Government of Gujarat for reducing customs duty on ship-breaking from 5 per cent to 0 per cent and whether the aforesaid request has been examined as part of the budgetary proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that imposition of customs duty is adversely affecting the industry to compete with neighbouring countries as these countries offered liberal concessions; and

(d) by when the exemption on customs duty would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As a part of the budgetary process for the budget 2009-10, the Union Government re-examined the representation of Government of Gujarat that ship breaking industry in Gujarat was facing stiff competition and decline due to increase in price of ships, liberal duty concessions in neighbouring countries, environmental regulations and internal competition from finished steel and melting scrap. However, it was not found Possible to accede to the request for full exemption.

(d) There is no proposal to grant this exemption under the consideration of Government.

Increase in maximum withdrawal limit from ATM

2047. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the common people in the country are preferring to carry cash during journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof compared to credit card;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the minimum withdrawal from the ATM to atleast Rs. 50,000 per day to carry cash;

(d) the demands received in this regard; and

(e) the comments of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The data base maintained by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information as requested.